

# The Society for Vascular Surgery honorary and corresponding membership

James S. T. Yao, MD, and Calvin B. Ernst, MD

In the history of The Society for Vascular Surgery (SVS), the category of honorary and corresponding membership has been somewhat confusing. The Society first started with a category called foreign corresponding members, followed by establishment of the honorary member category the following year. After that, the foreign corresponding member category was abandoned. In 1987 the category of corresponding member was reintroduced. Regardless of the confusion, honorary or corresponding membership was designed to recognize surgeons who have been leaders in their country and, most importantly, who have made significant contributions to vascular surgery. This review traces the evolution of these two categories of membership by examining the minutes of the Society's executive council over the past five decades.

At the third annual meeting, held at the Dennis Hotel, Atlantic City, N.J., June 5, 1949, the Society began to honor foreign surgeons by election of foreign corresponding members. Five surgeons were elected: Professor Rene Leriche, Paris; Professor Rognvald Learmonth, Edinburgh; Dr. Clarence Crafoord, Stockholm; Dr. Ferdinand Martorell, Barcelona, Spain; and Professor Rene Fontaine, Strasbourg, France.

In the following year, at the fourth annual meeting June 25, 1950, a category of honorary membership was established, and four distinguished surgeons were elected. Dr. Rudolph Matas, New Orleans; Dr. John Homans, Boston; Dr. Paul Moure, Paris; and Rene Leriche, Paris.

These two types of membership persisted, and the puzzling matter of these two categories was further compounded at the annual meeting in 1954 (Fig. 1).

HONORARY MEMBERS	
Doctor Rudolph Matas	3523 Prytania St., New Orleans, La.
Doctor John Homans	311 Beacon St., Boston, Mass.
Professor Paul Moure	11 Bis., rue de Milon, Paris, France
Professor Rene Leriche	5 Rue de l'Alboni, Paris, France
FOREIGN CORRESPONDING MEMBERS	
Professor Rognvald Learmonth	22 Braid Ave., Edinburgh 10, Scotland
Dr. Clarence Crafoord	Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden
Professor Rene Fontaine	9, rue Goethe, Strasbourg, France
Dr. Ferdinand Martorell	1 Platon, Barcelona, Spain
MEMBERS	
Arthur W. Allen, M.D.	266 Beacon St., Boston, Mass.
Lawrence N. Atlas, M.D.	2010 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles 5, California
Frederick Bancroft, M.D.	16 East 90th St., New York, N. Y.
Claude Beck, M.D.	Lakeside Hospital, 2065 Adelbert Road, Cleveland, Ohio
Wilfred G. Bigelow, M.D.	333 Medical Arts Building 170 St. George St., Toronto 5, Ontario, Canada
Isaac Bigger, M.D.	Department of Surgery, Medical College of Virginia Richmond, Va.

Fig. 1. First page of the 1954 SVS program membership roster designating honorary members and corresponding members.

In a letter to the secretary of the Society June 19, 1954, Drs. Frank Gerbode, Julian Johnson, and Wilfred G. Bigelow requested an amendment to the bylaws to institute a new classification of membership

called "foreign corresponding member." The authors stipulated that such membership should be given to foreign surgeons who had distinguished themselves in the field of vascular surgery. Much confusion continued to surround this new category of membership because a review of the minutes of the executive council in subsequent years failed to yield any evidence that this change had been incorporated into the bylaws. Also, no surgeons from abroad have been elected to foreign corresponding membership since 1947.

In 1961 the executive council (Drs. Johnson, Glenn, Olwin, Shumacker, and Yeager) recommended that the President appoint a committee to study and make recommendations regarding revision of the section of the bylaws pertaining to honorary and foreign corresponding members. It was decided to abolish the category of foreign corresponding member. Over the ensuing years, four surgeons from abroad were elected to honorary membership: 1962, Dr. Edmondo D. Malan, Genoa, Italy; 1974, H. H. G. Eastcott, London; 1975, John B. Kinmonth and Gerald W. Taylor, London.

In 1976 a change of the bylaws for election of honorary membership was suggested by Drs. Wiley F. Barker, Worthington G. Schenk, and Robert B. Wallace. They recommended that article VI, section 2, which then stated "The nomination and election of honorary members shall be according to general procedure outlined in section I of this article. Names must be proposed in writing to the secretary and each proposal must be signed by three active or senior members," be revised to read as follows:

Honorary members may be elected as follows:

- a. Any active or senior member may nominate an individual for honorary membership. The name and a brief description of the accomplishments of the nominee must be submitted to the Secretary at least eleven months prior to the annual meeting for circulation to an Honorary Membership Committee consisting of the three past Presidents on the Council.
- b. The Committee shall make its recommendations to the Council.
- c. Following its deliberation, the Council may recommend the candidate's name be submitted by the Secretary to the membership in his annual report at the Executive Session of the Society.
- d. Election to membership shall be by secret ballot by three-fourths affirmative vote of the membership present and voting at the annual Executive Session.

The amendment received approval at the Thirtieth Annual Meeting June 17, 1976. The nomination

of Dr. J. Leonel Villavicencio of Mexico was approved by the council June 17, 1977. He was elected officially in 1978.

At the 1977 council meeting, Dr. Russell M. Nelson, past president of the Society, was appointed to survey leading cardiovascular surgeons in the world for future candidates for honorary membership.

In 1981 Dr. Kiyoshi Inokuchi of Japan was elected to honorary membership. In 1987 Dr. Henner Muller-Wiefel of Duisburg, Germany, and Professor Geoffrey Slaney of Birmingham, United Kingdom, were elected to honorary membership.

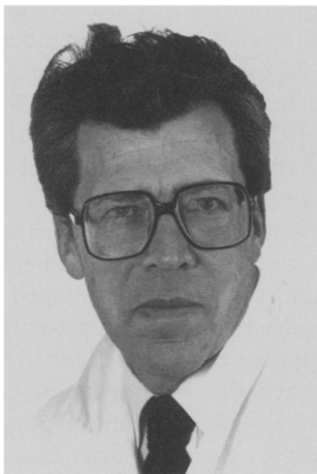
The category of corresponding membership was reinstated at the council meeting October 12, 1987. President E. Stanley Crawford suggested consideration of a category of membership for top-quality vascular surgeons from outside the United States. Dr. Crawford suggested that a category be established beyond the honorary membership category, one that would be subject to the same attendance requirements, including participation and papers to be presented by these outstanding foreign surgeons. The secretary, Dr. Calvin B. Ernst, was asked to develop information on a corresponding membership category for discussion at the next meeting of the council. At the June 12, 1988, council meeting, the council decided to propose an amendment to the bylaws to create such a category. This action involved the addition of a new subsection to be titled "Article IV, Section 2, Subsection e" which read as follows: "There shall be a subcategory of the Honorary Membership for those who, by reason of age (60 years or less) will be designated corresponding members, and will be expected to participate actively in the function of the Society." The amendment was approved by the members at the 1989 annual meeting.

On June 12, 1988, Dr. Anthony Imparato reported that the honorary membership committee was proposing Dr. Jean Kunlin for honorary membership in the Society. It was moved, seconded, and unanimously voted to approve the recommendation. Because of illness, Dr. Kunlin sent his regrets for not being able to be present at the annual membership meeting.

In 1989 G. Douglas Tracy of Sydney, Australia, was elected to honorary membership, and three overseas surgeons—Drs. Paolo Fiorani, Rome; Peter Maurer, Munich; and Wilhelm Sandmann, Dusseldorf—were elected to corresponding membership.

Active honorary and corresponding members of the Society are as follows:

**HONORARY MEMBERS**



**Sven-Erik Bergentz.** Emeritus Professor of Surgery, University of Lund, Malmo, Sweden. Formerly Head of Surgery, University Hospital.

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**Robert Courbier.** Professor, University of Marseilles. Formerly Chief, Department of Cardiovascular Surgery, St-Joseph Hospital, Marseilles.



**Norman L. Browse.** Director, Surgical Professorial Unit, St. Thomas' Hospital, London; Professor of Surgery, University of London; Chairman, Division of Surgery, United Medical and Dental School of Guy's and St. Thomas; London.



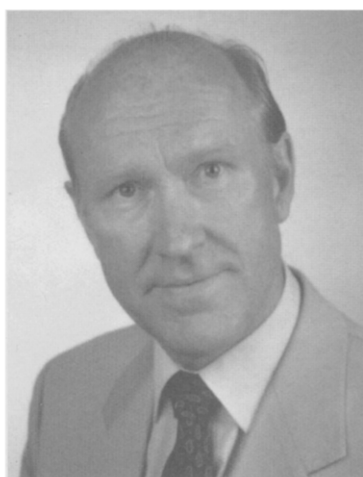
**H. H. G. Eastcott.** Formerly Consultant Surgeon, St. Mary's Hospital, London.

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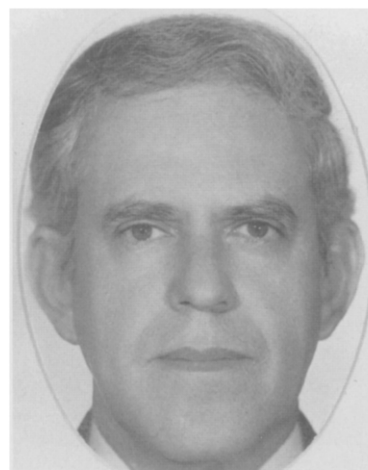


**Kuyoshi Inokuchi.** Formerly Professor of Surgery and Chairman, Kyushu University, Fukuoka, Japan.

**G. Douglas Tracy.** Professor Emeritus of Surgery, University of New South Wales, Honorary Consultant Surgeon, St. Vincent's Hospital, Sydney, Australia.



**Henner Muller-Wiefel.** Professor of Surgery, Chairman, Vascular Surgical Clinic, Academic Teaching Hospital St. Johannes, Duisburg, Germany.



**J. Leonel Villavicencio.** Professor of Surgery, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, F. Edward Hebert School of Medicine, Bethesda, Md.

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**Geoffrey Slaney.** Formerly Professor and Director, Surgical Professorial Unit, University of Birmingham, United Kingdom.

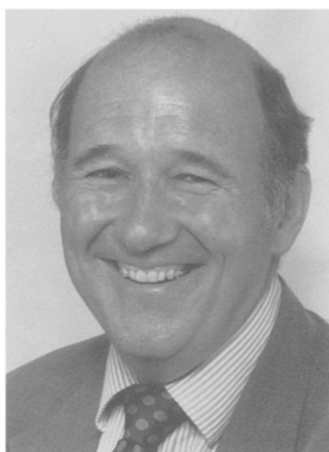
## CORRESPONDING MEMBERS



**Roger N. Baird.** Consultant in General Surgery, Royal Infirmary, Bristol, United Kingdom; Senior Clinical Lecturer in Surgery.



**Roger M. Greenhalgh.** Professor of Surgery, University of London, Head, Department of Surgery, and Dean, Charing Cross and Westminster Medical School; United Kingdom.



**Kevin G. Burnand.** Professor of Vascular Surgery, Department of Surgery, UMDS, St. Thomas' Hospital Campus, London.

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**Paolo Fiorani.** Professor of Vascular Surgery, Director, Department of Vascular Surgery, University of Rome "La Sapienza," Rome.

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**Jorg Gruss.** Kuehessisches Diakonissenhaus, Kassel, Germany.

**Edouard Kieffer.** Groupe Hosp Pitie-Salpetriere, Paris.



**Georg Kretschmer.** Associate Professor of Surgery, Vice Chairman, Division of Vascular Surgery and Department of Surgery, University of Vienna.

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**James May.** Bosch Professor of Surgery, University of Sydney, Australia.



**Reginald S. A. Lord.** Professor of Surgery, Chair, Surgical Professorial Unit, Clinical Associate Dean, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia.



**Andrew N. Nicolaides.** Professor of Vascular Surgery, Academic Surgical Unit, Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine, Honorary Consultant Vascular Surgeon, Vascular Unit, St. Mary's Hospital, London.



**Peter Maurer.** Tech University of Munich Medical School, Munchen, Germany.



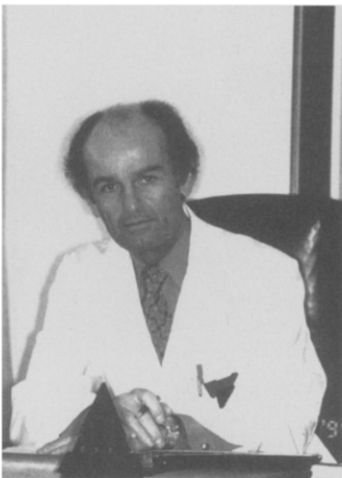
**Juan C. Parodi.** Chief, Department of Vascular Surgery, Instituto Cardiovascular de Buenos Aires, Argentina.



**Anatoly V. Pokrovsky.** Professor of Surgery, Head, Vascular Department, A .V. Vishnevsky Inst of Surgery, Chair, Vascular Surgery, Russian Postgraduate Medical Academy, Moscow.



**Wilhelm Sandmann.** Professor of Surgery, Chairman, Department of Vascular Surgery and Kidney Transplantation, University of Dusseldorf, Germany.



**Dieter Raithel.** Professor of Vascular Surgery, Head, Department of Vascular Surgery, Nuremberg Southern Hospital, Germany.